

Birds

By: Preston Thomsen

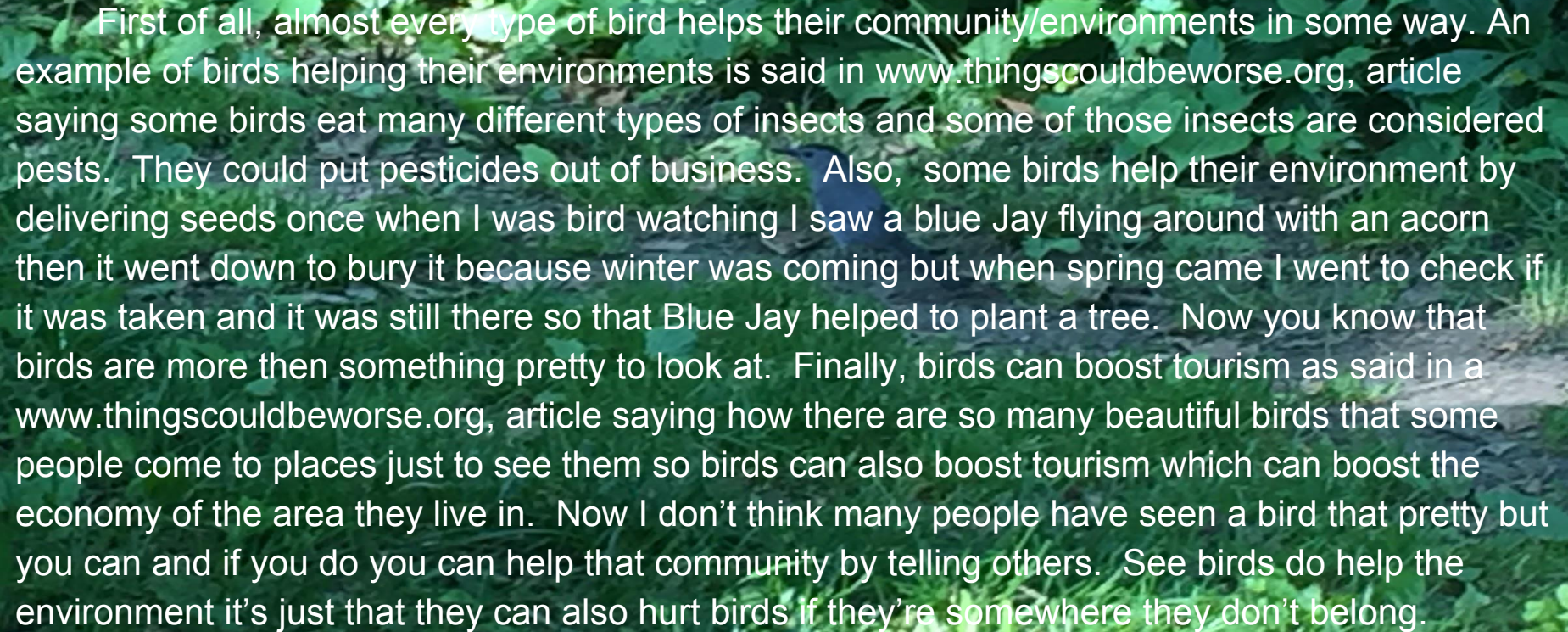


Have you ever gone bird watching? Have you ever seen how the birds help everything around them? Have you ever seen the blood shed the birds can cause if they're somewhere they shouldn't be? That's right, many invasive species of birds are very dangerous to native birds. Sure the Rock Dove (pigeon) is an exception but many birders believe that eventually the sheer amount of them will endanger many other species of bird. So while birds help their environment and community they can also hurt other birds if they're somewhere they shouldn't be.





A Blue Jay, like the one I once saw carrying an acorn, acting as a farmer.

A blue jay bird is perched on a branch in a lush green forest. The bird is facing right and has its head turned slightly towards the camera. The background is filled with dense green foliage, including large leaves and grasses. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

First of all, almost every type of bird helps their community/environments in some way. An example of birds helping their environments is said in www.thingscouldbeworse.org, article saying some birds eat many different types of insects and some of those insects are considered pests. They could put pesticides out of business. Also, some birds help their environment by delivering seeds once when I was bird watching I saw a blue Jay flying around with an acorn then it went down to bury it because winter was coming but when spring came I went to check if it was taken and it was still there so that Blue Jay helped to plant a tree. Now you know that birds are more than something pretty to look at. Finally, birds can boost tourism as said in a www.thingscouldbeworse.org, article saying how there are so many beautiful birds that some people come to places just to see them so birds can also boost tourism which can boost the economy of the area they live in. Now I don't think many people have seen a bird that pretty but you can and if you do you can help that community by telling others. See birds do help the environment it's just that they can also hurt birds if they're somewhere they don't belong.



Birders Tip: All most all birds bath so standing next to a stream with some snacks for the birds is a great way to find a few.

American Robin after bathing.

On the other hand, invasive species of bird can have a negative effect on the native birds. First off, www.chukspurpalmartinpage.com, article says that European starlings aren't from NY so one of the main issues about them is that they take up space. All invasive species of bird cause that problem for example the rock dove (pigeon), it will cause that eventually. Secondly, www.chukspurpalmartinpage.com, also says that European starlings kill many cavity nesters because they are so territorial so they kill the adults and young by pecking on their heads. They don't even eat the birds they killed they just leave them there. Thirdly, in an interview with Noah, a professional bird watcher of the natural history museum he said that European starlings they like to roam through fields but since there are so many can't go into the fields anymore so they are harder to find. One of the main reasons I picked up bird watching was to see Blue Jays now I know that European starlings are ruining it. Now do you see how much damage non-native birds can do?

Common
Grackle

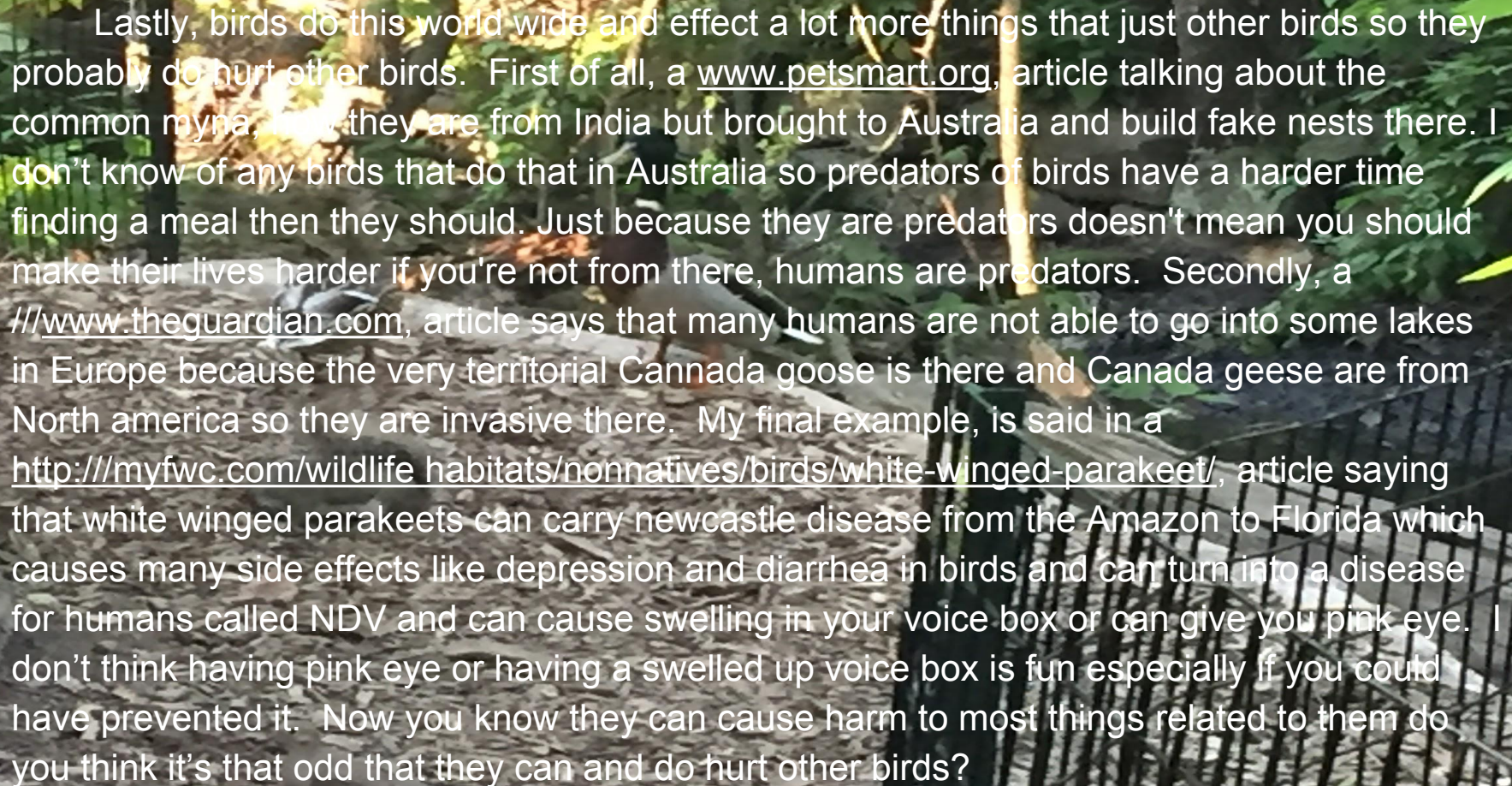




Male, Common
house sparrow.



Male, northern
Cardinal

A black and white bird, possibly a myna, is perched on a metal cage in a wooded area. The bird is facing left, and its body is mostly black with a white breast. The background is filled with green foliage and trees, suggesting a natural or semi-natural environment. The lighting is bright, with some areas of the foliage appearing overexposed.

Lastly, birds do this world wide and effect a lot more things that just other birds so they probably do hurt other birds. First of all, a www.petsmart.org, article talking about the common myna, but they are from India but brought to Australia and build fake nests there. I don't know of any birds that do that in Australia so predators of birds have a harder time finding a meal then they should. Just because they are predators doesn't mean you should make their lives harder if you're not from there, humans are predators. Secondly, a [///www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com), article says that many humans are not able to go into some lakes in Europe because the very territorial Cannada goose is there and Canada geese are from North america so they are invasive there. My final example, is said in a http://myfwc.com/wildlife_habitats/nonnatives/birds/white-winged-parakeet/, article saying that white winged parakeets can carry newcastle disease from the Amazon to Florida which causes many side effects like depression and diarrhea in birds and can turn into a disease for humans called NDV and can cause swelling in your voice box or can give you pink eye. I don't think having pink eye or having a swelled up voice box is fun especially if you could have prevented it. Now you know they can cause harm to most things related to them do you think it's that odd that they can and do hurt other birds?

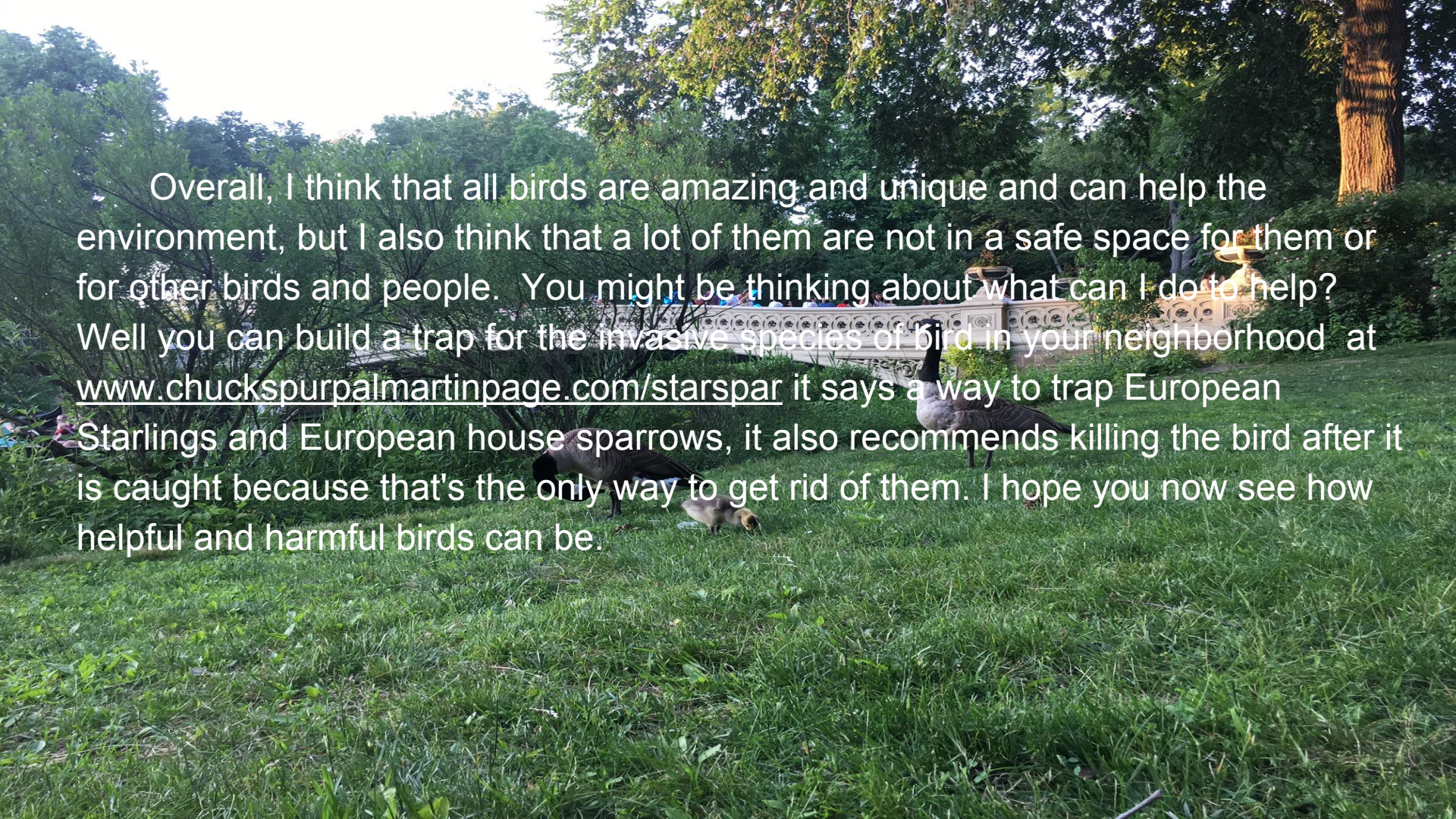


European House
sparrow, female.
One of the
invaders and
killers.



Birders Tip: You won't find many females in spring because of all the newborns.

A male Cardinal, a native affected by all the Invasive birds.

A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a large, lush green lawn. In the middle ground, a white stone fountain with multiple tiers is visible, surrounded by trees and bushes. In the background, there are more trees and a clear sky. In the lower right foreground, a large adult goose with a black head and neck and a smaller, fluffy gosling are standing on the grass. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Overall, I think that all birds are amazing and unique and can help the environment, but I also think that a lot of them are not in a safe space for them or for other birds and people. You might be thinking about what can I do to help? Well you can build a trap for the invasive species of bird in your neighborhood at www.chuckspurpalmartinpage.com/starspar it says a way to trap European Starlings and European house sparrows, it also recommends killing the bird after it is caught because that's the only way to get rid of them. I hope you now see how helpful and harmful birds can be.